

# PV in Newton, MA

November 2, 2005

MA Environmental Purchasing  
Vendor Fair

# What I'll talk about:

- Total PV installations
- How they happened
- Solar Shares project/Benefits
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps for PV
- Other Next Steps (anaerobic digestion)

# PV installations in Newton:

- 7 kW installed on NSHS
- 52kW about to be installed on NSHS
- 2 kW on community center
- 2 kW on Cambridge Savings Bank
- 10 homes with 2kW minimum each
- Next: middle school installation

# How did they happen?

- Four different forms of outreach:
- Public hearing: activists organized and asked for green building measures on HS renovation
- City Renewable Resource Committee: got DOE/MTC grant to promote solar energy
- Grassroots group: participated in National Solar Homes tour – promoted residential installations
- Grassroots group: partnered with City and Community Center to sell tax-deductible “solar shares” of community PV installation

# Solar Shares installation

- 2 kW PV installation – awning mounted for visibility
- Over 140 donors – 6 large (over \$500)
- Tax-deductible donations
- MRET subsidized



# Benefits of 2kW installation

- Educational example
- Marketing draw – to bring people in to give them the efficiency message
- \$350/year in electricity savings
- Community partnership building



# Lessons Learned

- Multiple decision-makers at every step takes a very long time
- Contracted work gets done
- Grassroots activism creates political support for REC purchasing
- Financing through monthly (or third party) kWh bills would grow the PV market faster

# Next Steps for Newton

- Solar on schools: with MTC Clean Energy Choice matching funds, we can support wind energy AND put up solar panels on schools
- Green building (high performance building) for new Newton North High School



## Other possible next steps for Newton and others:

- Larger local projects: anaerobic digestion combined heat and power: 30kw- 2MW
- Other cities doing this: Barcelona, Spain; Freiburg, Germany; Toronto, Ontario
- Addresses solid waste, ground water protection, air emissions, and renewable energy

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